

---

**Forestry Related Assistance Programs in Hawaii:**

**Current programs and future trends**

---

Sheri S. Mann  
Cooperative Resource Management Forester

State of Hawaii  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

October 2006

## INTRODUCTION

There are a number of assistance programs in Hawaii, but many qualified landowners are unaware of what these programs are, how to access them, the appropriate practices for them, and/or current trends which may affect them. This document outlines many of the available programs and opportunities that are available for private landowners, communities, State agencies, and consultants in the State of Hawaii. This information will be updated as new programs are available and current programs change.

The following programs are listed by the umbrella agencies that manage them.

### **USDA FOREST SERVICE COOPERATIVE ASSISTANCE / STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS**

**Administered by the State of Hawaii Division of Forestry & Wildlife**

<http://www.dofaw.net/>

---

**Urban & Community Forestry (Kaulunani)** - Cost-Share 50 Federal/50 Landowner. This program promotes the creation of healthier, more livable urban environments. Kaulunani maintains, restores, and improves the health of urban trees, forests, green spaces and sustainable forest ecosystems. The Program provides educational, technical and cost-share funding to cities, counties, schools, and community groups in urban areas. Kaulunani funding is available ranging from \$1000 to \$10,000 for cost-share projects. Matching for this program comes primarily from public and private community, in-kind project contributions and/or labor.  
<http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/kaulunani/index.htm>.

**Forest Lands Enhancement Program (FLEP)** - Cost-Share 75/25. This program provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to private forest landowners interested in sustainable forestry management objectives in non-industrial private forests. FLEP provides education, technical and cost-share funding for small-scale forest restoration, conservation, and/or education projects ranging from \$1000 to \$10,000. Matching for this program comes from private landowners' in-kind contributions and labor.  
[www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/hfsp/index.html](http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/hfsp/index.html).

**Cooperative Forest Health Protection** – Cost-Share 50/50. This program directs and implements measures to prevent, retard, or suppress unwanted, native and nonnative invasive insects, pathogens, and plants affecting trees and forests. The primary goals are to minimize the spread of established invasive species and reduce damage caused by native insects and diseases. The program protects and improves America's forests using cutting-edge technology to rapidly respond to forest health threats. Funding and technical assistance is available for insect and pathogen management for private landowners through the State. This program is committed to finding innovative ways to rapidly respond to forest health threats to avoid unacceptable loss of forest resources. [http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/briefs/program\\_overview.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/briefs/program_overview.html)

**Forest Legacy Program (FLP)** – Cost-Share 75/25. This program protects private forestlands from being converted to non-forest uses. FLP provides an opportunity for willing private landowners to sell (fee simple or conservation easement use-rights) their land to the State of Hawaii for the purpose of preserving or restoring unique forested areas. Matching for this program must come from a non-federal source in the form of land contribution or dollars. <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/Legacy/index.html>.

**Watershed Forestry Assistance Program (WFAP)** - On December 3 2005, the President signed the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA). The Act contains two watershed forestry assistance programs (WFAP), State Watershed Forestry Assistance and the Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Programs, that are to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture through the Chief of the Forest Service. The Forest Service is working with State Forestry Agency personnel and with Indian Tribes to develop separate guidelines for the State and the Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Programs. Previous plans were to issue interim guidelines for both programs in October 2004. Because no program funds are included the President's FY2005 budget, there is no justification for publication of interim guidelines. For more information on these programs, contact Karen Solari, [ksolari@fs.fed.us](mailto:ksolari@fs.fed.us).

---

## **OTHER STATE OF HAWAII ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**Administered by the Division of Forestry & Wildlife**

**Land Legacy Conservation Fund** – Cost-Share 75/25. This program provides a source for funding for the conservation of Hawaii's unique and fragile places and resources. State, county agencies, and non-profits who are seeking funding to acquire property from private entities may apply for this grant. Proposed projects may include acquisition of fee title or conservation easements. Cost-share funding is only required of nonprofit organizations. [www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dofaw/llcp](http://www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dofaw/llcp)

**State Forest Stewardship Program** - Cost-Share 50/50. The purpose of this program is to assist non-industrial private forest landowners whom manage their forests and related resources to increase the economic and environmental benefits of their lands. Cost-share funding opportunities for private landowners range from \$5,000 to \$75,000 per year, for 10 yrs, with a following maintenance period. [www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/hfsp/index.html](http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/hfsp/index.html).

**Natural Area Partnership Program** – Cost-Share 2 to 1 ratio, State dollars to landowner match. This program provides state funds for the management of private lands that are dedicated to long-term conservation. This program can support a full range of management activities to protect, restore, or enhance significant native resources or geological features. The program can also help provide funding for the development of long-range management plans. Minimum 6-year commitment to the program. <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/napp/index.html>

**Watershed Partnerships** – These programs are voluntary alliances of public and private landowners committed to the common value of protecting large watersheds for water recharge and other values. Presently eight (8) successful watershed partnerships have been established covering thousands of acres. On the ground projects focus on alien species control fencing ecosystem restoration, and technical assistance.

<http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/wpp/index.html> or [www.hawp.org](http://www.hawp.org)

**Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)** – The Corps is a hands-on summer learning experience educating Hawaii's youth. The YCC program usually runs from June 14 through July 30 of each year. Members and team leaders receive a stipend and if eligible, will receive three (3) college credits upon successful completion of the program. YCC programs will be held on the islands of O'ahu, Maui, Moloka'i, Kaua'i, and the Big Island. Eligible applicants must be at least high school sophomores and no older than current college sophomores. Team Leader (TL) applicants must be at least 21 and have completed their sophomore year in college. Member and TL applications must be postmarked by the beginning of March of the year of the program. No prior experience is necessary for applicants. Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps is constantly looking for interested organizations that are willing to help develop and grow the YCC. The Corps can be reached by phone or fax. Phone numbers are: OFFICE (808) 247-5753; FAX (808) 247-2115. <http://www.hawaiiyc.com/program.html>

**Safe Harbor Agreements** – This agreement encourages proactive natural resource management to benefit endangered and threatened species. It provides regulatory assurances that future property-use restrictions will not be imposed if those efforts attract endangered or threatened species to their enrolled property or result in increased numbers or distributions of listed species already present. <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/safeharbors/index.htm>

**Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC)** – HISC is a government body established by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii with the authority to provide funding for the removal of and the establishment of State policy related to invasive species. The Hawaii Invasive Species Council's special purpose is to foster coordinated approaches that support local initiatives for the prevention and control of invasive species, such as the coordinating group on alien pest species and the island invasive species committees. <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/HISC/>

---

## USDI FISH & WILDLIFE PROGRAMS

<http://www.r1.fws.gov/>  
[http://pacificislands.fws.gov/worg/orghc\\_conpart.html](http://pacificislands.fws.gov/worg/orghc_conpart.html)

National web page providing endangered species information to private landowners  
<http://endangered.fws.gov/landowner/index.html>

**Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)** – Cost-Share 75/25. The State of Hawaii contains more biologically unique species than any other state in the United States. Unfortunately, this high level of endemism is paralleled by Hawaii also having more imperiled biota than any other state. There are currently 378 listed threatened and endangered species, 127 proposed and candidate species, and 1,085 species of concern in Hawaii. Many of these imperiled species are found on private lands in the State. Over 60% of the total land area and 50% of conservation district lands are under private ownership. The cooperation and assistance of private landowners is essential to be able to conserve and restore native flora and fauna. Recognizing the need to engage private landowners in the conservation of rare and endangered species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implemented LIP to provide funding and technical assistance to enhance, protect, or restore habitats that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species on private lands. <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/LIP/>

**Private Stewardship Grant Program** – Cost-Share 90/10. This program supports projects on private lands that benefit species and their habitats that are listed, proposed, candidates, or rare species. It funds on-the-ground projects rather than planning, research, education, ongoing management or land acquisitions. The projects can not be used to fulfill mitigation requirements. The non-Federal match requirement can be cash, in-kind services (including volunteer labor) or equipment. A state-sponsored University or conservation group can submit a proposal as long as a willing private landowner is involved. These projects compete on a regional basis; therefore the proposals should be as complete and competitive as possible. Local Hawaii contact - Craig Rowland U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Phone: 808-792-9450, Fax: 808-349-1413  
[http://pacificislands.fws.gov/worg/orghc\\_psg.html](http://pacificislands.fws.gov/worg/orghc_psg.html)

**Recovery Land Acquisition Grants** – Cost-Share 75/25. Loss of habitat is the primary threat to most listed species. Land acquisition of fee title or conservation easement is often the most effective and efficient means of protecting habitats essential for recovery of listed species before development or other land use changes impair or destroy key habitat values. Recovery Land Acquisition grant funds are matched by States and non-federal entities to acquire these habitats from willing sellers in support of approved species recovery plans.  
<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/section6/FY2006/RFP.pdf>

**Coastal Program** – The program's purpose is to focus the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts in bays, estuaries and watersheds to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitats in support of a healthy coastal ecosystem. The Coastal Program has four goals: 1) Serve coastal communities; 2) Conserve pristine coastal habitats; 3) Restore degraded coastal wetland, upland, and stream

habitats; and 4) Focus resources through conservation alliances. The program's approach is to partner with coastal communities to improve the health of their watershed for fish, wildlife, and people. Coastal Program identifies, evaluates, and maps important habitats and provides technical assistance to interested parties for restoration.

<http://www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalProgram/>

A complete list of the grants offered by the USFWS can be found at - <http://grants.fws.gov/>

---

## USDA - NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE PROGRAMS

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** – Cost-Share 75/25. This program is a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>

**Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)** – Cost-Share 75/25. This program is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Through WHIP, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/>

**Conservation Resource Enhancement Program (CREP)** - An offspring of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), CREP is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Unique state and federal partnerships allow you to receive incentive payments for installing specific conservation practices. Through the CREP, farmers can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving covers on eligible land. CREP is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. This program is in the process of being activated in Hawaii, but at the present time is not available. <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crep03.htm>

**Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)** – Cost-Share 50/50. FRPP provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and ranchland in agricultural uses. The program works through existing programs, USDA partners with State, tribal or local governments and non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements or other interests in land from landowners. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value of the conservation easement. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp/>

---

## **UNITED STATES ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER**

**Private Lands Initiative** – The Private Lands Initiative involves a cooperative agreement between an armed service and a non-governmental organization (NGO) or a state/local agency to cost-share the purchase of land titles or conservation easements from willing land owners (at market value) to minimize incompatible use. The NGO or state/local agency purchases and manages the land titles or easements. The contact person at the US Army Environmental Center for the Private Lands Initiative is Cynthia Bauer at [Cynthia.Bauer@aec.apgea.army.mil](mailto:Cynthia.Bauer@aec.apgea.army.mil) Phone: (410) 436-4988. Website <http://aec.army.mil/usaec/natural/natural03a.html>

---

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**Clean Water Act Section 319 (Nonpoint Source Management Program** – Section 319 is an amendment to the Clean Water Act to establish a Nonpoint Source Management Program to help focus State and local nonpoint source efforts. State, Territories, and Indian Tribes receive grant money to support a variety of activities such as technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects, and monitoring. The State, Territory, or Indian Tribe may take the provided funding and contract out to local organizations to help meet the objectives of the Act. For information please contact Hudson Slay at (808) 586-4436. <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/cwact.html>

---

## **TAX INCENTIVES WITH LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN HAWAII**

**Native Forest Dedication on the Big Island** – Allows private landowners with a minimum of three (3) acres to dedicate their land as native forest under its agricultural use categories. Native forest dedication requires that you actually have native forest dedication under which individual landowners agree to maintain their land as 60% native plant species with 25% canopy cover in

exchange for a reduced tax assessment. This is a 20-year dedication. The following link provides the forms for native forest dedication on the county web site:  
[http://www.hawaiipropertytax.com/template.asp?page=Forms\\_Miscellaneous.htm&mnu=Home&submnu=forms&lftmnu=formsmisc](http://www.hawaiipropertytax.com/template.asp?page=Forms_Miscellaneous.htm&mnu=Home&submnu=forms&lftmnu=formsmisc) Call Mike McCall at 961-8260 for more information.

**State Tree Farm Program** – Chapter 186, HRS authorizes the Board of Land & Natural Resources to classify private land as tree farms, if it is suited for the sustained production of forest products in quantity sufficient to establish a business. The private property (or term lease of more than 20 years) must be ten (10) acres or more to be eligible. A tree farm management plan must be prepared, made available to the public for 30 days, reviewed, and approved by the BLNR. Once each of these steps are completed, a management agreement is prepared by the Division of Forestry & Wildlife (\$50). The property receives a tree farm classification and is eligible for petition to the County to qualify for a property tax assessment. For additional information contact Sheri Mann (DOFAW) at [Sheri.S.Mann@hawaii.gov](mailto:Sheri.S.Mann@hawaii.gov) or by telephone: (808) 587-4172

**Cost-Share Exclusion (Improvements)** - Code Sec. 126 (e) Exclusion from income.  
<http://www.timbertax.org/research/research.asp>

---

## LAND TRUSTS

### Agencies that help private landowners facilitate incentive programs

**The Nature Conservancy** – The mission of the Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the land and waters they need to survive. The Nature Conservancy has developed a strategic, science-based planning process, called Conservation by Design, which helps to identify the highest-priority places, landscapes and seascapes that, if conserved, promise to ensure biodiversity over the long term. In other words, Conservation by Design allows the achievement meaningful, lasting conservation results. <http://nature.org/>

**The Trust for Public Lands** – The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national, non-profit land conservation organization, and in 1997, they celebrated 25 years of conserving land for people. Since TPL was founded in San Francisco in 1972, it has grown from a small group of people concerned with preserving the Marin headlands just north of San Francisco to an organization of more than 200 dedicated people in 24 offices across the mainland. TPL and these local groups work with private and corporate landowners, community groups, cities and towns, and public agencies at the State and Federal levels. TPL strives to find ways that lets everyone work together, achieve our conservation goals, and see that many of America's most special places are preserved. TPL's mission statement is simple: to conserve land for people. The work, however, is complex, challenging, and rewarding. In 25 years, more than 1 million acres of land, valued in excess of \$1.2 billion dollars, have been protected by TPL with the help and partnership of organizations much like the Maui Open Space Trust. <http://www.bestofmaui.com/tplhawaii.htm>



**Maui Coastal Land Trust** – The mission of the Maui Coastal Land Trust is to acquire, preserve, and protect coastal lands in Maui Nui (i.e., the islands of the County of Maui) for the integrity of the natural environment and the enjoyment of current and future generations. **MCLT has three main goals -Goal 1: Operations** To establish a strong community-based organization with diversified sources of financial support. **Goal 2: Public Awareness** Educate and build alliances with landowners, developers, community groups, government agencies, the business community, and visitors. **Goal 3: Land Conservation** Institute a program to successfully acquire, preserve, and protect selected parcels of coastal land. <http://www.mauicoastallandtrust.org/index.html>

**Hawaii Island Land Trust (HILT)** – HILT is a community-based, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide an inclusive approach to land conservation on the Island of Hawai'i. HILT works with landowners who voluntarily choose to protect their land and collaborates with individuals, other non-profits, and governmental organizations to achieve conservation objectives. HILT uses a variety of tools to protect lands such as voluntary conservation easements, land donations, or fee-simple purchases. <http://www.HawaiiLandTrust.org>

**Kauai Public Land Trust** – Kauai Public Land Trust's mission is to preserve lands on Kauai for the common good through acquisition, management, and education. They work with communities, government, businesses, and landowners to ensure key resources and places are protected for future generations. [http://www.ltanet.org/findlandtrust/one.tcl?pc\\_id=144574](http://www.ltanet.org/findlandtrust/one.tcl?pc_id=144574)

---

## RELATED LINKS

**Pacific Islands Lands Institute** – This Guide provides information on private initiatives that can assist landowners and communities in their efforts to manage, conserve, and preserve agricultural land, rural landscapes, open space, historic sites, and natural and cultural resources on privately held land in Hawaii. These options and approaches are available to large and small landowners and community groups. They also make good economic sense because they can reduce taxes, protect land from forced estate tax sales, keep land within families, and sustain Hawaii's landscapes. [http://www.pilipacific.org/conservation\\_options/consr\\_options.html](http://www.pilipacific.org/conservation_options/consr_options.html)

**Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs** - <http://12.46.245.173/cfda/cfda.html>

**Various Hawaiian related links -**

<http://web.hawcc.hawaii.edu/hawcc/forestteam/ListLinksPane.htm>